



Choose the Best Search for Your Information Need

Need additional search ideas? Try [NoodleQuest](#) (interactive version)

I need help to define my topic...

I need a **topic**

[Clusty](#) Brainstorm topic ideas using result clusters

[Social Issues](#) Browse hot topics and pro/con links

[Google Directory](#) Search this subject tree enhanced by Google results

I need to understand the **scope** of my topic

[Intute](#) Investigate annotated academic sites

[INFOMINE](#) Browse annotated research and educational sites enhanced by second-tier "robot-selected" results

I need to investigate **alternative or related topics**

[Grokker](#) Explore a web of your topic and subtopics (Yahoo results)

[Clusty](#) Uncover buried sites by choosing a related cluster

[Ask.com](#) Select "Expand Your Search"

I need to **refine and narrow** my topic

[Ask.com](#) Select "Narrow Your Search"

[Clusty](#) Drill down into a cluster of results

[SurfWax](#) Click "Focus" to identify similar, broader, and narrower topics

I need to find quality results...

authoritative and scholarly sites chosen by a **subject expert**

[Librarians' Internet Index](#) Search the selective database or drill down into the well-organized subject tree

[Virtual LRC](#) Select a subject category, then search on term(s) or a phrase

[Google Scholar](#) Find scholarly, peer-reviewed subject-specific results with [advanced search](#)

personal help from experts

[Sources and Experts](#) Browse a journalist's contacts

[Ask a Librarian](#) Get last-resort help (no homework questions)

[AllExperts](#) Self-identified subject experts volunteer to answer questions

sites **ranked or tagged** as
valuable or relevant

- [Google](#) High PageRank means popular, relevant sites link to the page
- [Technorati](#) [Browse](#) or search user-identified subjects ("tags") for blog advice or opinions
- [Ask.com](#) High ExpertRank indicates subject-specific popularity

primary sources

- [American Memory](#) Locate documents, sound recordings, images, maps, and other American primary sources
- [Ready, 'Net, Go!](#) Browse worldwide archival index
- [Library and Archival Exhibitions on the Web](#) Search for online exhibitions selected by Smithsonian librarians

I need to do research in a specific discipline...

government

- [USA.gov](#) [Search](#) or browse official U.S. information and services
- [Govt. Publications & Maps:](#) Browse worldwide government sites
- [Foreign Gov.](#)
- [Directgov](#) Search or browse official UK information and services

science, engineering and
technology

- [Scirus](#) Science-specific Web portals, reports, peer-reviewed articles, patents, preprints and journals
- [Natl. Science Digital Lib.](#) Science, technology, engineering and math
- [Intute](#) [Science, engineering and technology](#) hub

health and life sciences

- [Intute](#) [Health and life sciences](#) hub
- [Fealth](#) Health-specific search engine and [directory](#)

law

- [FindLaw](#) Search U.S. cases, codes, news and commentary
- [LOUIS](#) Search Congressional documents, Federal Register, GAO reports, bills and resolutions
- [Intute](#) [Social sciences: Law](#) hub

arts and humanities

- [Intute](#) [Arts and humanities](#) hub
- [Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy](#) Browse peer-reviewed, continually-updated entries on contemporary philosophy

The timeliness of information that I need is...

today

- [Google News](#) Top news stories auto-generated every 15 minutes
- [NewsNow](#) Worldwide news auto-generated every 5 minutes
- [10x10](#) Explore machine-compiled single image composed hourly of 100 words and pictures that "matter most" on a global scale

recent	Yahoo News	One month archive with editor-created "roundups" in Full Coverage
	World News Network	Click a category (below news item) to gather related news or images, select Mon-Sun to track story's development
	Google News	Click on "related" (below news item) to see story's development

historical	American Memory	Search America's primary source documents and images, browse by topic, time period, medium or place
	Librarians' Internet Index	Drill down into the history section or search fewer, broader terms (e.g., "terrorists" not "Righteous Path")
	Digital History	High-quality historical resources, primary sources, multimedia, subject guides

ancient	Ancient History Sourcebook	Search online ancient-history texts, images, audio, or browse by region, period (e.g., Persia, Late Antiquity)
	Librarians' Internet Index	Drill down into ancient history section or search fewer, broader terms (e.g., "Greece" not "Spartan women")

I need facts...

a person	Biography.com	Search 25,000+ biographies by name, keyword and profession
	Who2	Search for famous people with "four good links" to more information
	Dictionary of Canadian Biography Online	Search biographies from Canada's history (16th-20th century)
a place	CIA World Factbook	Select country for basic profile and transnational issues
	Country Studies	Cross-search or view a country (last update 1998) - historical, social, economic, political and national security data
	Stately Knowledge	Basic U.S. state facts, links to state government site and encyclopedia (IPL KidSpace)
a company	NYPL: Searching for Company Information	Find company information based on your need

general reference answers	Ask.com	Find a fact, biography, statistic or conversion, or reference answer
	Columbia Encyclopedia	Find basic information
	Yahoo	Learn shortcut words to get quick answers

news background (facts, people, and documents)	Intute Behind the Headlines	Editor-compiled background for headline news
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I need opinions and perspectives...

I want opinions on current issues	Yahoo News	Browse columnists and cartoonists, or search Opinion
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HeadlineSpot	Browse opinion/editorial in U.S. and some international newspapers
Opinion/Editorials	
PollingReport	Browse results of U.S. public opinion surveys

I need news from **other countries' perspectives**

World Press Review	Get nonpartisan summaries of views outside U.S.
Newspaperindex	Browse selected world newspapers
ABYZ News Links	Browse international broadcast and Internet news, newspapers, magazines, and press agencies

I want multiple perspectives on **hot social and political topics**

Social Issues	Links to pro/con on current social issues
Public Agenda	Analysis of public attitudes on social issues with overview, pro/con, organization links
UN News Centre: News Focus	Browse for UN-related issues by region, country or topic

I want to **compare news treatment**

Newseum	Compare news reporting on U.S. front pages
PressDisplay	Compare news reporting from 55 countries

I need a specific type of media...

maps

Google Maps	Search and view satellite and street-level maps (repeat in Yahoo Maps)
MapMachine	Search, browse and print country, physical and political maps
American FactFinder Maps	See trends/patterns when you superimpose chosen geographical features and census data on U.S. maps

photographs and visual images

Google Image Search	Use advanced search to limit by size, coloration, file type
Yahoo Image Search	Use advanced search to limit by size and coloration
Flickr	Search users' photos by their subjects ("tags"), then choose a subtopic ("tag cluster")

fine art

Artcyclopedia	Search (e.g., artist, medium, movement, subject) or browse for digitized art and online exhibits, see actual size
ADAM Search	(refine by subject, depicted person, place or organization), or browse (subject headings, historical period, resource type, geographical area) digital museums and art libraries

videos

Yahoo Video Search	Search by keyword or phrase, use advanced search to limit by file format, size, duration and domain
Truveo	Video-only search engine, advanced search limits by title, description, actor, director, genre, duration, quality
Internet Archive: Moving Image Archive	Search public domain films, newsreels, ads, documentaries, television series and other "cultural artifacts"

radio	PublicRadioFan	Find public radio programs and podcasts worldwide
	Podcast.net	Search or browse podcasts
music	AltaVista Audio Search	Search for MP3s and other types of music files, limiting results by file type and song duration.
	Google	To find song lyrics, search (in quotes) title or performer (plus) "song lyrics," to find information about the song's history search title (in quotes) and "origin"
sounds	FindSounds	Get sound effects and music samples: select a keyword or search a term limited by file format, quality and size
speeches	American Rhetoric	Search site or browse categories of full-text, audio and video of American public speeches, lectures, debates, interviews, events
	History and Politics Out Loud	Search or browse full-text public-domain audio with transcripts of 20th century political and historical events, personalities, and protest songs
	American Memory	Find sound recordings of American primary source speeches
quotations	Bartleby.com Quotations	Search classic passages, phrases and proverbs (1901 edn.)
	Quotations Page	Search word, phrase, author within or across quotation collections
	Quoteland	Search by keyword or browse topics, authors
statistical data	Statistical Information (NoodleTools)	Links to statistical databases and advice on locating and understanding data
dictionary or thesaurus (for definitions, etymology, pronunciation, synonyms)	Yahoo Reference	Definitions, etymology, synonyms (English and Spanish) and audio-pronunciation
	Merriam-Webster Dictionary and Thesaurus	Definitions, etymology, synonyms and audio-pronunciation
	WordCentral	Definitions with pictures (student dictionary)
encyclopedia	Columbia Encyclopedia	Factual information (updated 6/05)
	Wikipedia	Volunteer-created and collaboratively edited: valuable for current topics (e.g., people in the news), technology (e.g., podcasting) -- information quality uneven
almanac data	Country at a Glance (U.N.)	Basic country profile, use InfoNation to compare data from 6 countries
	Information Please Almanac	Statistical and factual data -- beware popup minefield
books and other printed works	WorldCat	Search for books and reviews, options to refine results, check your local library's holdings
	Google Scholar	Search (free and fee) scholarly works, locate related information using "cited by" links, use advanced search to limit (author, date, phrase, in title, subject area)
	A9	Search for books by keyword, then "Search Inside!" to see keyword-in-context

I have special search requirements...

run my search **periodically**
and be notified of new results

[GoogleAlert](#) Run Google search of 3 interests and get e-mail or RSS notification of new results

[Google Alerts](#) Run periodic Google searches and get e-mail (no RSS) notification of new results

specify a **country** where my
search results are located

[Google](#) Limit by domain ([advanced search](#)) or by country ([Language Tools](#))

use a search engine **outside**
the U.S.

[Search Engine Colossus](#) Browse search engines and directories from countries and territories

find sites organized by the
Dewey Decimal System or
Library of Congress
Classification

[Virtual LRC](#) Select Dewey Decimal number before searching

[INFOMINE](#) Drill down into [Library of Congress Classification directory](#)

[BUBL LINK](#) Select "DeweyClass" from dropdown menu in Advanced Search

locate resources by **file type**

[Google](#) [Limit search](#) by file type (.pdf, .ps, .doc, .xls, .ppt, .rtf)

[Yahoo](#) [Limit search](#) by file type (.html, .pdf, .doc, .xls, .ppt, .xml, .txt)

I am...

a kid

[KidsClick!](#) Find kid-friendly sites with educational content (grades K-7) selected by librarians

[Yahoo Kids](#) Select from kid-safe sites (grades 2- 7) organized by topic

[Ask for Kids](#) Search by keyword, then select the best-match question for answers and links

pretty new to the Internet

[Google](#) Largest general purpose search engine

[Yahoo](#) Large, general purpose search engine

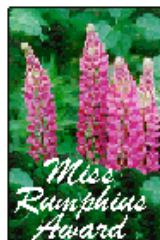
[Librarians' Internet Index](#) Easy-to-navigate, well-annotated directory of librarian-selected Web sites

an Internet wizard

[Exalead](#) Configure highly-specific searches including proximity ("folk tales NEAR sun"), but smaller index than Google or Yahoo

[INFOMINE](#) [Configure a narrow search](#) of a large, comprehensive academic virtual library (Web sites, databases, electronic journals, electronic books, bulletin boards, directories of researchers)

[JUX2](#) Compare results to identify the strengths of Google, Yahoo and MSN for your search



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